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MATEL 12/30 REVIEWER:	
DATE	

9 October 1957

WORLD REACTION TO SOVIET BARTE SATULLITE

I. High-riding Abrushcher has promptly moved to milk the maximum political advantage out of the Soviet earth satellite achievement. He appears confident that the ICBM test, the successful leubching of the earth matellite, and the amnouncement of a test of a "hydrogon device of a new design," will greatly strongthen the USSR's politico-strategic position vis-s-vis the Yest and will 25X1 produce a deep impact on neutralist opinion.

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- Khrushchev declared on 8 October that the matellite and longrange rockets mean that fighter and bomber aircraft "can be put into suseums." He said that "rockets are terrible, pitiless weapons," and pointedly advised "those responsible for the fate of peoples" to "think seriously about these things."
- The Soviet leader also warned the US and its friends in the Middle East not to intervome in Syria. Noting that the Turks had denuded their frontiers with the USER by concentrating forces against Syria, he suggested that "they should have a good think about this."
- II. Boviet propagands media have concentrated on claiming a "brilliant victory" for Soviet ecience -- one which demonstrates the superiority of the Socialist system. Soviet comment his followed the theme \*\* \*Apploved For Release 2003/02/27 CIA ROP/980089040009000200000 labor of the people of the new socialist sectedy turn even the most daring of man's dreams into a reality.

- A. Soviet scientist, P. L. Espites, said the USSR was able to issuach the extellite first because the Soviet system makes it "espier to organise, inspire and direct" teams of scientists.
- B. Moncow radio on 7 October contracted "estern efforts to use scientific achievements "for the six of total destruction" with Soviet goal of "speeding up at a gigantic pace the progress of civilization."
- III. Soviet ecientific achievements will probably boost Khrushchev's domestic popularity. They will at least temporarily strengthen his position in dealing with any opposition which may remain within the higher echelons of the Seviet party.
  - A. In the fereign policy field, these successes will strengthen Moncow's hand in expanding Soviet influence in the Middle Fast and Afro-Asia, and in selling "neutralism."
  - S. Pravds on 7 Outober predicted that the Seviet success will force the US to revemp some of its foreign policies and stated that US "ruling circles" must face up to three quostions: necessity of peaceful coexistence, stopping the armsments race, and ending the cold war.
- IV. Chinese Communist reaction, unlike the initial Soviet comment, was quick to declare that UN claims to military supremacy are now empty and that "US hopes for world begomony have been shattered."
  - A. All Satellites are giving Soviet announcements maximum play.

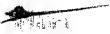
    East German Party boss Valter Wibricht declared that the

    satellite "is witness to the further transformation of the

    belance of power in the world in favor of the USSE, the

    Socialist camp, and the countries in the wide some of peace."

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- V. In Western Europe there were five major lines of comment:
  - A. belief that the Western countries through joint efforts could surpass Soviet scientific achievements;
    - 1. The London Daily Telegraph suggested that the Soviet success was due to an advantage inherent in a dictatorship and a closed economy. "It is a question of priorities and the power to enforce them."
  - b. recognition that launching of satellite is a mamentous event and a great Seviet achievement;
  - C. surprise and disappointment that USSR beat the US in this field;
  - D. conclusion that the Soviets are sheed of the PS scientifically and that the West has suffered a political setback;
  - E. belief that this achievement has great military implications and that it is not in safe hands.
- VI. Comment in Asia and Africa stresses blow to WS prestige.
  - A. Leftist papers in Egypt praised the Soviet schievement and ridiculed American "assisty" and "panis." More conservative papers predicted an accoloration in great power arms race and concluded that other nations should be even more hesitant to align themselves with either the West or the USSN.
  - a. Israeli press naw satellite as major prestige victory for the SSER among those "underdeveloped peoples" (the Araba) which tend to set their course according to demonstrations of strength by the great powers.
  - C. Indian prime minister Nehro, speaking is Japan, stressed that
    new scientific developments have antiquated present-day
    politics and foreign policies and rendered obsolete such
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- D. A leading Japanese military commentator (Sabiero Haynchi) stated that the satellite demonstrates the superiority of Soviet technology.
- E. Most striking reaction so far has come from Yebran, where US Embassy reports that:

"Host Iran government officials...have long been convinced of US...maperiority over "barbarone" Soviets. Both officials and public...ere beginning suspect Soviet at least equal US or perhaps superior in long run, this weakens Iranian will to recist Soviets...efficials have tended show embarranement when subject of satellite is brought up, apparently feeling that entellite represents such blow to US prestige that to discuss it would be impolite."